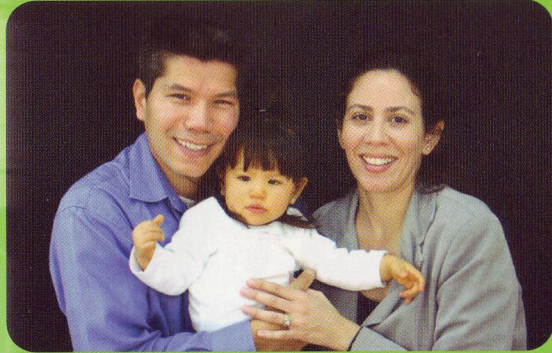


Seven Ways to Use Your Refund Wisely

You can start to achieve your financial goals.

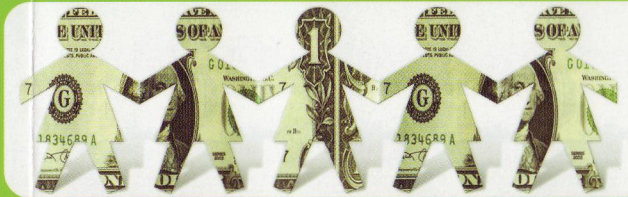
1. You can pay past due expenses.

Use your tax refund to make sure any past due expenses are paid. Late fees and other charges can take a bite out of your budget.



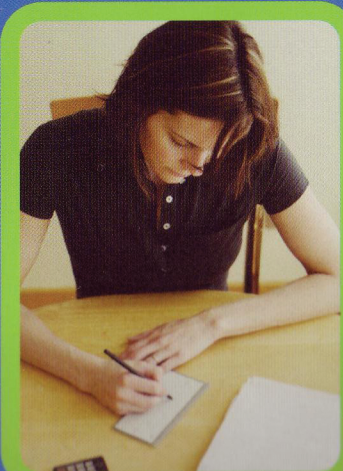
3. You can set aside some of your refund as an emergency fund.

Unexpected expenses can derail the best prepared budget or spending plan. Having a reserve fund in an easily accessible savings account can smooth out budgeting bumps such as doctor visits or car repairs.



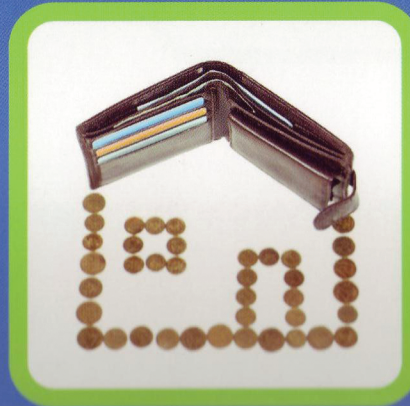
2. You can use your refund to pay down credit card debt.

Consider if you pay \$320 per month on \$8,000 in credit card debt at an average interest rate of 21%. Using \$600 of your refund to make a one-time payment on your credit card would save \$428 in interest and help you become debt free four months sooner.



6. You can Boost your Retirement Funds

Invest \$600 of your refund at age 30 at 6% interest and it will grow to eight times the original investment by age 65. Continue to deposit the same amount from your refund each year and add more than \$72,000 to your retirement nest egg.

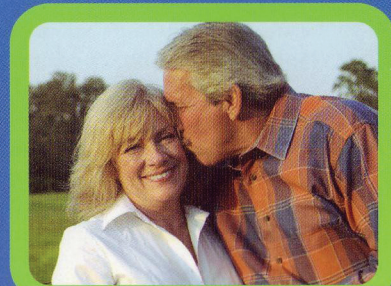


4. You can save for your child's education.

Start now to save for your toddler's college education. Deposit \$500 of your refund this year in an account earning 5.5% interest and in 16 years you will have \$1,203.00. Save the same amount from your refund each year and it will grow to more than \$13,000!

5. You can save for a major appliance or other large purchase.

Putting \$500 down on a \$1,000 purchase can reduce interest costs by as much as 75% versus financing the entire amount.



7. You can pay down a mortgage or save for a down payment on a home.

If \$900 is applied as a one-time extra principle payment on a \$180,000 mortgage with twenty years remaining at a 7% interest rate, you would save \$2,500 in interest and three months off your repayment time. Apply the same amount from your tax refund each year and save more than \$17,000 in interest and lop more than two years off your repayment time.

You can save for a down payment. At today's 30-year mortgage interest rates, you can save \$3,000 to \$5,000 in interest for every \$1,000 you don't have to borrow.